

Message Text

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11
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R 280645Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5330

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USUN NEW YORK 504

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 2692

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YO

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR COMMENTS ON
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM) ISSUES

1. DURING MY INITIAL CALL JULY 27 ON THE YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR,
SLOBODAN MARTINOVIC, HE OFFERED SEVERAL COMMENTS ON NON-
ALIGNED ISSUES. MARTINOVIC IS WELL-DISPOSED TOWARD THE U.S.
AND OFFERED SEVERAL CANDID COMMENTS IN SPIRIT OF BEING
HELPFUL TO US.

2. REGARDING NAM IN GENERAL, THE AMBASSADOR BELIEVES IT IS
VITAL TO YUGOSLAVIA TO MAINTAIN THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP AS A
TRULY NON-ALIGNED BODY. HE SAID, "WITHOUT NON-ALIGNMENT
THERE WOULD BE NO YUGOSLAVIA." HE BELIEVES IT WOULD BE
HELPFUL IF THE U.S. WOULD TAKE A MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDE
TOWARD THE NAM. HE FEELS WE MAY BE TOO SENSITIVE ON CERTAIN
ISSUES SUCH AS KOREA AND PUERTO RICO AND FAIL TO REALIZE
THE OVER-ALL BENEFITS THE NAM CAN ACHIEVE. HE BELIEVES A
MORE POSITIVE U.S. APPROACH TO THE NAM WOULD HELP TO
ENHANCE THE U.S. IMAGE IN THE WORLD.

3. ON THE KOREAN ISSUE, MARTINOVIC SAID THAT YUGOSLAVS
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HAVE TOLD NORTH KOREA THEY MUST BE REALISTIC. SOUTH KOREA

EXISTS AND EVEN THOUGH YUGOSLAVIA DOES NOT NECESSARILY APPROVE OF ALL ASPECTS OF THE SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT, IT DOES BELIEVE SOUTH KOREA MUST BE PART OF ANY PERMANENT SETTLEMENT. THE AMBASSADOR DOES NOT ANTICIPATE THAT A STRONGER POSITION ON THE KOREAN ISSUE THAN HAS BEEN ADOPTED IN THE PAST WILL EMERGE FROM THE SUMMIT.

4. CONCERNING PUERTO RICO, THE AMBASSADOR CLAIMED HIS

GOVERNMENT IS CONVINCED THAT THERE IS NO GENUINE, SUBSTANTIVE DESIRE ON THE PART OF THE PUERTO RICANS TO ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT NATION AND THE YUGOSLAVS HAVE TOLD CUBA THIS. MARTINOVIC SAID HE DOES NOT EXPECT THE SUMMIT TO ADOPT CUBA'S POSITION ON THIS ISSUE.

5. AMBASSADOR MARTINOVIC BROUGHT UP THE PANAMA CANAL ISSUE. HE VIEWS THIS AS A PARTICULARLY SERIOUS MATTER IN NON-ALIGNED EYES AND HE FEELS THE U.S. SHOULD MOVE AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM IN AN EQUITABLE MANNER. MARTINOVIC SAID: "LOOK BACK OVER YOUR OWN HISTORY WHEN YOU WERE A SMALL EMERGING COUNTRY AND PUT YOURSELF IN THE POSITION OF PANAMA. THEN YOU WILL RECOGNIZE WHY THIS MATTER IS OF SUCH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THEM."
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